

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 02295 211427 Z

42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SAJ-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

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R 211350 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5703

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USNATO 0805

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

DIA WASHDC

EUCOM

USAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2295

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI RO AU CH KN

SUBJECT: VISITS OF ROMANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF TO AUSTRIA,
CHINA AND NORTH KOREA

REF: BUCHAREST 2245 (NOTAL)

1. AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR SAUTTER HAS TOLD US THAT ROMANIAN
CHIEF OF STAFF ION GHEORGHE WAS CHIEFLY INTERESTED DURING
HIS RECENT VISIT TO AUSTRIA IN VISITING AN AUSTRIAN
ARMAMENTS COMPANY. GENERAL ION WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED
IN TANKS AND IN ARMORED CARS (FOR MOUNTAIN TROOP USE)
PRODUCED BY THIS FIRM, ACCORDING TO SAUTTER.

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 02295 211427 Z

2. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SPECULATION IN BUCHAREST DIPLOMATIC CORPS THAT GENERAL ION MAY BE INTERESTED IN PROCURING ARMAMENTS DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO CHINA ALTHOUGH WE KNOW OF NO HARD INFORMATION TO BACK UP THIS LINE OF SPECULATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS OUR IMPRESSION FROM OUR TALKS WITH BOTH SOVIET AND ROMANIAN OFFICIALS AFTER THE GRECHKO VISIT TO BUCHAREST IN APRIL THAT THE SOVIETS AND ROMANIANS HAVE WRANGLD OVER PRICE AND TYPES OF EQUIPMENT (SOVIET COUNSELLOR PESHCHERSKY SAID GRECHKO DISCUSSED " HEAVY EQUIPMENT" DESIRED BY ROMANAINS DURING HIS APRIL VISIT BUT THAT SOVIETS WOULD MEET SOME BUT NOT ALL OF ROMANIAN DESIRES). IF SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO PALM OFF OBSOLESCEENT EQUIPMENT OR ARE ASKING EXCESSIVE PRICES AND IF GOR WANTS MORE MODERN EQUIPMENT THAN IS BEING OFFERED (AND WANTS TO DIVERSIFY ANYWAY), IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT ROMANIANS ARE SEEKING TO OBTAIN EQUIPMENT ELSEWHERE OR AT LEAST TO CONVEY SUCH IMPRESSION TO SOVIETS FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES.

3. CHINESE MILITARY ATTACHE TOLD FRENCH THAT GENERAL ION IS ACCOMPANIED BY VICE- ADMIRAL SANDU (CHIEF OF NAVY SECTION OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF); GENERAL GHERGUTZ (COMMANDER OF MOUNTAIN TROOPS), AND THREE COLONELS, ONE OF WHOM IDENTIFIED AS A DEPUTY TO GENERAL OPRITA (HEAD OF ARMY POLITICAL DIRECTORATE). CHINESE ATTACHE SAID THAT ROMANIAN DELEGATION HAD A " WORKING MEETING" AT MOSCOW AIRPORT DURING A FOUR HOUR STOP WITH " ONE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE SOVIET ARMY."

4. ACCORDING TO JUNE 21 PRESS ACCOUNTS, GENERAL ION WAS MET ON ARRIVAL IN PEKING JUNE 20 BY LI TE- SHENG, DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE.

5. NOTWITHSTANDING WHATEVER FOCUS ION VISIT MAY HAVE, WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY TO BE CHARACTERIZED AS A FRIENDLY RETURN VISIT TO AUGUST 1971 VISIT HERE OF LI TE- SHENG AND IN KEEPING WITH ANNOUNCED GOR POLICY OF FOSTERING GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ROMANIAN AND OTHER FOREIGN ARMIES, BE THEY WP, NATO, OTHER SOCIALIST OR NEUTRAL.

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PAGE 03 BUCAR 02295 211427 Z

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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